

10/510951

DT15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 OCT 2004

English Translation of Amendments under PCT Article 19 and
Brief Statement filed on October 3, 2003

-43-

4. The image pickup equipment as defined in any one of claims 1-3, further comprising:

an authorized user identification information storing
5 section which stores authorized user identification information; and

a user identification section which determines whether or not user identification information obtained from a user matches the authorized user identification information,

10 the image pickup operation restricting section not restricting the image pickup operation of the image pickup section whenever the user identification section determines that the user identification information obtained from the user matches the authorized user identification information.

15

5. The image pickup equipment as defined in any one of claims 1-4, wherein, (i) an image-pickup-side device including the image pickup section and the self-location detecting section and (ii) a control-side device including the location
20 determining section and the image pickup operation restricting section are provided as different devices, and the image-pickup-side device and the control-side device are connected to each other over wireless communications.

25 6. (amended) An image pickup system, characterized by

-43/1-

comprising:

the image pickup equipment defined in any one of claims 1-5 and 13; and

a server computer which receives image information from the image pickup equipment.

5

7. A method of controlling an image pickup equipment, characterized by comprising the steps of:

(i) detecting a location of the image pickup equipment;

(ii) determining whether or not the location detected in

10 the step (i) is inside of a predetermined area; and

(iii) if it is determined in the step (ii) that the location is outside of the predetermined area, restricting an image pickup operation of an image pickup section which is provided in the image pickup equipment and obtains image
15 data by converting input light.

8. The method as defined in claim 7, wherein, in the step (i), the location is detected in accordance with states of received waves.

20

9. The method as defined in claim 8, wherein, in the step (i), the location is detected in accordance with states of the received waves that are different from each other.

10. The method as defined in any one of claims 7-9,

further comprising the steps of:

(a) storing authorized user identification information;
and

(b) determining whether or not user identification
5 information obtained from a user matches the authorized user
identification information,

in the step (iii), whenever it is determined in the step (b)
that the user identification information obtained from the
user matches the authorized user identification information,
10 the image pickup operation of the image pickup section not
being restricted.

11. (amended) A control program for causing the image
pickup equipment defined in any one of claims 1-5 and 13 to
15 operate, the control program causing a computer to function
as each of the sections of the image pickup equipment.

12. A computer-readable storage medium, storing the
control program defined in claim 11.

13. (added) The image pickup equipment as defined in any one of claims 1-5, wherein, the self-location detecting section detects the location of the image pickup equipment always before the image pickup operation in accordance with
5 a request for image taking, and if the location determining section determines that the location is outside of the predetermined area, the image pickup operation restricting section restricts the image pickup operation of the image pickup section, always before the image taking in response to
10 the request.

14. (added) The method as defined in any one of claims 7-10, wherein, in the step (i), the location of the image pickup equipment is detected always before the image pickup
15 operation in accordance with a request for image taking, and in the step (iii), if it is determined in the step (ii) that the location is outside of the predetermined area, the image pickup operation of the image pickup section is restricted always before the image taking in response to the request.

20

15. (added) A sensor device, characterized by comprising:

a sensor section;

a self-location detecting section which detects a location
25 of the sensor device;

a location determining section which determines whether or not the location detected by the self-location detecting section is inside of a predetermined area; and

an operation restricting section which restricts an operation of the sensor section if the location determining section determines that the location is outside of the predetermined area.

16. (added) A sensor system, characterized by comprising:

the sensor device defined in claim 15; and

a server computer which receives sensor information from the sensor device.

17. (added) A method of controlling a sensor device, characterized by comprising the steps of:

(i) detecting a location of the sensor device;

(ii) determining whether or not the location detected in the step (i) is inside of a predetermined area; and

(iii) if it is determined in the step (ii) that the location is outside of the predetermined area, restricting an operation of a sensor section of the sensor device.

18. (added) A control program for causing the sensor device defined in claim 15 to operate, the control program

causing a computer to function as each of the sections of the sensor device.

19. (added) A computer-readable storage medium,
5 storing the control program defined in claim 18.

BRIEF STATEMENT IN LINE WITH ARTICLE 19(1) OF TREATY

1. Added claims 13 and 14 are characterized in that the self-location is detected always before the image pickup
5 operation, whether or not the self-location is inside of a predetermined area is determined, and if it is determined that the self-location is outside of the predetermined area, the image pickup operation is restricted.

Reference Cited 1 (JP 11-136660A) discloses a cordless
10 surveillance camera system which is arranged in such a manner that the power control is disabled, and when it is detected that the surveillance camera is moved from the location where the camera is installed, highly confidential information is deleted. With this system, improper use of a
15 telephone can be prevented even if the camera is stolen.

According to Reference Cited 1, it is necessary to disable the power control and keep the power supply to be always on-state, in order to detect the move of the surveillance camera. Otherwise the move of the surveillance camera from
20 the installation location cannot be detected in such a case that the power supply is turned off, the camera is moved, and then the power supply is turned on.

On the other hand, according to the image pickup equipment of the present invention, the self-location is
25 detected always before the image pickup operation, then

whether or not the self-location is inside of a predetermined area is determined, and the image pickup operation is restricted if it is determined that the self-location is outside of the predetermined area. This makes it possible to prevent a
5 (e.g. stolen) image pickup equipment from being abused for improper use such as sneak shot and other privacy infringing purposes, even if the power supply is turned off, the equipment is moved, and then the power supply is turned on.

10 2. Added claims 15-19 are identical with claims 1, 6, 7, 11, and 12, except that "*image pickup equipment*" in claims 1, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are replaced with "*sensor device*".

The embodiment of the present invention takes the CMOS image sensor as an example of the image pickup
15 section. On this account, it is clear that the present invention can be applied not only to the image pickup equipment but also to various types of sensor devices.